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COUNTRY Poland SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT NO. 25X1A

TOPIC Soviet Ordnance Shop in Breslau-Masselwitz (Wroclaw-Maslowice)

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EVALUATION 25X1A PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED 25X1A DATE PREPARED 24 August 1953

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

SOURCE 25X1X

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1. Until November 1951, a Soviet ordnance shop was in operation at the former Ardelit Works and the former German tank ordnance shop about 1 kilometer northeast of Masselwitz (P 55/C 42) and the western bank of the Oder River. The two installations were separated from each other and the former tank ordnance shop was off limits except for Soviet personnel.
2. The area of the former Ardelit Works included an administrative building, 2 factory sheds, 1 machine and welding shop, 1 wood working shop and 1 locomotive shed with spur track to the Herrnprottsch (P 52/C 42) railroad station. Buildings quartering guard personnel were available. The area was bounded on the west by a road which connected Masselwitz with the Oder River in the north. The entire installation was surrounded by a double wire fence and barbed wire entanglements and on its north, south and west sides had watchtowers which were permanently manned by sentries with red service colors. The guard personnel was accommodated in the former tank ordnance shop.
3. Prior to the fall of 1951, about 400 Soviet personnel were employed in the former Ardelit Works. This personnel which was frequently rotated included many officers who took part in the assembly work and thus received a thorough mechanical training. Officers ranking upward of major lived outside the factory area. Chief of the installation was a Soviet colonel. The German work force of the installation, originally in the strength of about 120 men, was discharged by Christmas 1951. No Polish personnel was employed at the Ardelit Works or the former tank ordnance shop.
4. Prior to September 1951, only Soviet artillery pieces and small arms were repaired at the installation. Minor replacement parts such as bolts, firing pins, etc. were manufactured at the installation. All the other replacement parts arrived by rail. Incoming and outgoing shipments of arms were also handled by rail. 25X1X artillery pieces of 80, 150, 200 and 250 mm caliber. The repaired guns were tested at irregular intervals at a point southeast of the installation. The guns fired across the Oder River toward Masselwitz forest.
5. Incoming weapons shipments included tanks which were, however, unloaded in the area of the former tank ordnance shop which, according to source, had been established about 1936. The ordnance shop consisted of several barracks-like

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buildings and was separated from the former Ardelt Works by a north-south road. No details were available on the activities conducted at the tank repair shop.

6. The former Ardelt Works received its electric current from a power station in Marschwitz (P 52/C 32). Source believed that this power station, which was located at the eastern exit of Marschwitz, exclusively served Soviet repair installations near Masschwitz.

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